

REMARKS

Claims 27-60 are pending in this application. Claims 27, 38, 49, and 60 have been amended. Support for the new claims can be found in the specification, particularly pages 5 and 14, as well as Figures 3-10. Examination and consideration of the claims are respectfully requested. No new matter has been added by way of amendment.

The present invention relates to a very small and compact device that comprises a unit for holding an agent that is delivered to a breast milk duct over time. The unit is sized and configured so that it may be worn externally (e.g., the nipple of a breast), or internally (e.g., within a breast milk duct).

Each recited device includes an elongated member secured to its unit. Each elongated member comprises an internal lumen for delivering an agent from its unit to the breast duct and a distal end with an atraumatic tip that prevents damage to the breast duct. The tips of these elongated members will not puncture or otherwise damage the epithelial lining of the duct while being positioned within the duct. These distal ends are clearly shown in the originally filed Figures.

In another embodiment of the present invention, the device includes an elongated member that can be used as a tether to withdraw an indwelling unit from the breast duct or as a conduit to refill the indwelling unit. The indwelling unit in this embodiment has an atraumatic tip that prevents damage to the epithelial lining of the breast duct when the unit is positioned within the duct.

CONCLUSIONS

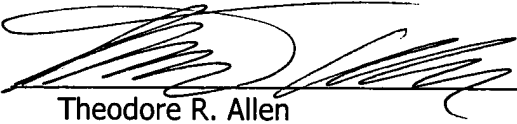
It is believed that the claims are in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is solicited. Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment. Applicant asks that all claims be examined and allowed.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned

under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 502855, referencing Attorney Docket No. 12.009011.

Respectfully submitted,

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